Decontrol of coal price in the country

296, SHRI PARMESHWAR KUMAR AGARWALLA:
SHRI ANANT RAM JAISWAL:
SHRI SATYA PHAKASlIMA^A-yiYA:

Will the Minister- of COAL be pleased, to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government' have mooted a proposal to decontrol the price of coal including the superior, grade coal;.

(b) if so, the reasons thereof;

it) what are the details of the recommendations made by Bureau of Industrial Cost and Price about the Pricing policy of coal to be followed in the country in future;

(d) whether the Coal- India Limited is enjoying monopoly, status of production and sale of coal in the country ; and

(e) if so how far. it, is advisable, to decontrol the price and leave the consumer at the mercy of Coal India Limited with out any alternative source of supply of coal?

THE MINISTER-OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA): (a) to (e) Prices of coal are fixed by Govt under clause 4 of Colliery Centrol Order, 1945 continued in force, under Essential. Commodities ,Act, 1955. Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) had first undertaken a study of coal, industry in 1985 mainly with a view to rationalise its cost structure and to recommend coal price which are fair and reasonable botk to industry,, and to. the consumers. Based on. their report the coal prices are being revised from time to time.

BICP has again taken up the study, of coal industry since 1991. Their final re-port has hot been received. Howevers BICP have made some interim recommendations relating to gradign for pricing of coal, decontrol of prices for some grame of - coal efficiency .price, for fully linked mines etc. Coal india Ltd., although the largest producer and supplier of *coat,* does not enjoy a monopoly status. Coal, *is* also being produced by Singaren Col:. lieries Company Ltd., some steel companies, State Mineral Development cov-porations, etc. Besides Govt, has. already taken a decision to allow private companies engaged in poster,,generation to own cap-tive coal mines. Coal is also being allowed to be imported without any restrictions

297. [Transferred to 14th December, 1993]

Representations Received for Payment of Cash' Compensatory Support

298. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of representations received in the past three months for payment of Cash Compensatory Support to those exporters' who concluded exports before the 2nd July, 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that Directorate General of Foreign Trade have not issued appropriate clarifications as required by the exporters for getting the payment; and

(c) if so, the facts and reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (c) Some representations have been received from exporters who had under taken exports upto 2nd July, 1991 for expeditious payment of CCS. Govt have issued clear instructions that CCS is to be paid by the Regional Licensing offices to all entitled categories of exporters.

Quantum Jump in Export of Agricultural Products

299, SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether there has ,been a , quantum jump in expert of bur agricultural pro-dufctsi;

(b) if so, the amount of increase in terms of dollar in the last one year;

(c) the names of products that were exported ; and

(d) whether Government have been able to meet the phytosanitary standards of developed countries ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE, CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMERS AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND THE MINSTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMA-LJJDMN AHMED): (a) to (c) Export of agricultural commodities (excluding cotton) during 1991-92 was US $ 1882 million, and that during 1992-93 has been pro-*visionally* estimated at US $ 1950 million. for *1993-94,* a target of US $" 2255 million has "been fixed. The major items being exported are deoiled cakes, cashew, tobacco", spices, rice, fruits and vegetables, processed foods, sugar, etc.

(d) -Government has repeatedly been empfeasisiag to the exporting community, the scad for exporting goods of intet-nfiJtonaMy accepted quality and Indian agricultural commodities are very well accepted internationally.

Variation the Price of Indian and Indonesian Coal Avallable In Bangladesh.

300. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Meghalaya C6al at Bangladesh within its border is available at $ 40 per ton whereas the Indonesian coal is available at $ 48 a ton;

(b) Whether it is a fact that the calorific value of Meghalaya coal is superior to that of Indonesia's;

(e) whether it is also a fact that 39 cut for a ton is the volume measure ment in Meghalaya whereas it is only 35 cu ft to a ton in Bangladesh thus giving the Bangladesh traders the advantage of 4 cu ft, for a ton: and

(d) if so, whether what steps Govern* ment propose to take so that this trade is not too much in disfavour of the Meghalaya exporters ?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRL PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) to (d) There are no restrictions on export of Meghalaya Coal w.e.f. 1-4-1993. No reliable information is available regarding the prices at which imported coal from varioue sources is available in Bangladesh. Since coal produced in Meghalaya mines hat not been grad*d, details regarding calorific value and density of coal produced in Meghalaya are not avalable

Dunkel Draft on Textiles

301. SHRI INDER KUMAR GUJRAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

fa) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the write-up in the Times of India of 1st September, 1993 regarding India's submitting 5-point amendement to the Dunkel Draft on Textiles; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and
(b) In the negotations that took place in November—-December, 1992 India had made proposals on the textiles agreement of the Dunkel draft. In view of the importance that India attaches to this matter these proposals were also brought to the attention of the Director General of GATT recently.

2. The proposals for amendments in the Agreement On Textiles are as below:

(i) Annex may be split into "two parts—-Part A and Part B Part A would comprise of those products which are MFA items at defined in Article 12 of the MFA. Part B would comprise of non-MFA products.

(n)Products in Part A only would be relevant for in Integration